

Message Text

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TAGS: UNGA, EGEN, SWEL

SUBJECT: 30TH GA - SECOND COMMITTEE: DUTCH DRAFT RESOLUTION
ON ECONOMIC EMERGENCY AND DISASTER SITUATIONS (ITEM 12 OR
ITEM 123?)

REF: USUN 4708

1. DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO DUTCH DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
ECONOMIC EMERGENCY AND DISASTER SITUATIONS IS QUALIFIEDLY
FAVORABLE, AS IT SEEMS TO BE AIMED AT BETTER COORDINATION
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WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM IN IDENTIFYING AND RESPONDING TO THE

RANGE OF SITUATIONS THAT FALL IN THE CATEGORY OF EMERGENCIES ARISING FROM ECONOMIC CAUSES AND NATURAL DISASTERS. HOWEVER, THE RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY RETAILORED TO ACHIEVE THIS AIM. WE THINK THE DRAFT SHOULD BE CLEARER IN INDICATING THE RANGE OF SITUATIONS IT ATTEMPTS TO COVER, AND MORE POINTED IN STATING THE PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION. (FOR EXAMPLE, THE PREAMBLE SPEAKS OF NATURAL DISASTERS AND ECONOMIC EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, WHILE THE OPERATIVE PART REFERS ONLY TO THE LATTER.)

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DUTCH DRAFT IS A REVISION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN THE DUTCH PAPER (CRP-8) OF LAST JUNE SUBMITTED TO THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION PREP-COM, AND IN EFFECT (OR IN PART) REPRESENTS FOLLOW-ON ACTION TO PARA 14, SECTION II OF RESOLUTION 3362 (S-VII), WHICH IN TURN WAS AN INADEQUATELY EXPRESSED REFERRAL TO THE 30TH GA OF THE PROBLEMS RAISED IN CRP-8.

3. IT APPEARS FROM CRP-8 THAT THE DUTCH HAVE IN MIND A RANGE OF SITUATIONS WHICH THEY CATEGORIZE AS PERMANENT OR SEMI-PERMANENT EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, DISASTER-LIKE ECONOMIC EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, AND (NATURAL) DISASTER SITUATIONS. THESE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT BE TREATED AS COMPARTMENTALIZED CATEGORIES SINCE THERE CAN BE VARYING GRADATIONS AND OVERLAPINGS AMONG THEM, E.G. CASES OF CHRONIC ECONOMIC "EMERGENCY" AGGRAVATED BY NEW "DISASTER-LIKE" ECONOMIC FACTORS AND/OR BY NATURAL DISASTERS, AND CASES OF NATURAL DISASTERS WHERE THE DISASTER RELIEF PHASE MOVES INTO THE REHABILITATION AND REDEVELOPMENTAL PHASES. THESE ARE SITUATIONS THAT INVOLVE DIFFERING CAUSES, TIME-FRAMES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMBINATIONS OF ACTION AGENCIES IN THE UN SYSTEM. HENCE, THE RESOLUTION SHOULD AVOID ANY IMPLICATION THAT STANDARD PROCEDURES CAN BE APPLIED TO THESE VARIED SITUATIONS (E.G. WE QUESTION THE SUGGESTION FOR STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR PROCLAMATIONS OF EMERGENCY BY ECOSOC). MOREOVER, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE PREAMBULAR REFERENCE TO ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY UN AGENCIES, PARTICULARLY UNDP, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP AND THE SPECIAL FUND, MIGHT BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE OTHER AGENCIES THAT ARE FROM TIME TO TIME INVOLVED IN DIFFERENT ASPECTS OR PHASES OF

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THESE PROBLEMS, E.G. FAO, WHO, WMO, THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS AND IFI'S.

4. IN OUR VIEW ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL END-PRODUCTS OF THE SECRETARIAT STUDY AND ECOSOC CONSIDERATION SET IN MOTION BY THIS RESOLUTION WOULD BE AN IN-HOUSE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING MECHANISM WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM TO DETERMINE RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSURE CONTINUING COORDINATION. IT

WOULD THEREFORE BE HELPFUL TO ADD AN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH POINTING IN THIS DIRECTION. WE ARE NOT THINKING OF A NEW BODY, BUT SIMPLY OF A FRAMEWORK FOR MEETINGS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PERTINENT UN AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE TYPES OF SITUATIONS COVERED BY THE RESOLUTION, PERHAPS AS AN OFF-SHOOT OF THE ACC.

5. YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS THESE THOUGHTS WITH THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATION, AND ALSO TO SUGGEST A SMALL MEETING WITH OTHER KEY WEO'S TO SEE IF SOME CLEARER FORMULATION CAN BE ARRIVED AT. INGERSOLL

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